

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03952 240943Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 INR-07 /019 W
-----072152 241007Z /14-12

R 240855Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3627

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3952

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SY, US
SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY: MARRIAGE PROPOSALS

1. DELIVERED FIVE MARRIAGE PROPOSALS TO TOUTAH WITH COUNCIL MEMBERS NOSSIERI AND HASBANI ALSO PRESENT JUNE 23. VIGOROUS BUT INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE REGARDING HOW THEY SHOULD BE HANDLED. TOUTAH'S FIRST REACTION WAS TO PRESENT ONLY ONE AS A TEST CASE. HASBANI THOUGHT THERE WAS NO QUESTION FOUR OF THE FIVE GIRLS WOULD ACCEPT PROPOSALS BUT THE FIFTH HE THOUGHT MIGHT ALREADY BE ENGAGED. HE FAVORED PRESENTING ALL FIVE (OR FOUR) TOGETHER AS A UNIT TO SYRIAN AUTHORITIES. TOUTAH REMAINED HESITANT SUGGESTING IT MIGHT BE BEST TO EXAMINE WHOLE MATTER INFORMALLY WITH LT. COL. ABD AL-SAMAD EVEN BEFORE NOTIFYING GIRLS OF PROPOSALS. NOSSIERI AT THIS POINT MADE CAREFUL LIST OF PROPOSERS AND PROPOSEES, PERHAPS AS A HOLD OVER TOUTAH. TOUTAH ALSO RAISED POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING WHOLE MATTER UNTIL ARRIVAL OF SHALOM. ALL WERE UNITED HOWEVER IN BELIEF THAT RECEIPT OF THESE PROPOSALS WAS A VERY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT FOR WHICH THEY GAVE GREAT CREDIT TO SHALOM. I ADVISED THEM TO PROCEED RAPIDLY WITH ALL FIVE PROPOSALS AND PROMISED OUR SUPPORT ONCE APPLICATIONS FOR PASSPORTS HAD ACTUALLY BEEN
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SUBMITTED. SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE GOOD IDEA TO HAVE APPLICATIONS FIRMLY LAUNCHED BEFORE SHALOM'S ARRIVAL. WHEN I LEFT, HOWEVER, THEY WERE STILL DEBATING HOW TO PROCEED. THEY WILL INFORM ME NEXT WEEK OF THEIR DECISION.

2. AFTER APPLICATIONS HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN SUBMITTED, AMBASSADOR OR I WILL FOLLOW UP WITH DAOUDI, IF HE IS

AVAILABLE, OR KHANI, BOTH OF WHOM ARE AWARE OF CARTER-ASSAD
DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT. IN FACT, I WAS ABLE TO MENTION
IT BRIEFLY TO KHANI YESTERDAY INFORMING HIM THAT FIVE
PROPOSALS HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND WERE IN THE HANDS OF THE
COMMUNITY. HE INDICATED MESSAGE HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM
AMBASSADOR KABBANI REPORTING CONVERSATION WITH YOU ON THIS
ISSUE.

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